the unorganized sector including agricultural workers. National Social Assistance Programme covering old-age pension, family and maternity benefits for select groups is also in operation.

Financial crisis in Tamil Nadu

*274. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has sought Rs. 3,000 crores package to meet the present financial crisis in the State;

(b) whether request has also been made to rescind the limit of borrowing capacities of the State Government for implementation of development programme; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As regards package of Rs. 3000 crores for Tamil Nadu to meet the financial crisis, it would not be possible to open a new window for non-plan assistance to States other than what was recommended by the Finance Commission nor does the current economic slow down affecting Sates and the Union in equal measure make it feasible for the Centre to allot any additionality as grants.

Regarding restrictions to borrow for development programmes, there is need to limit further growth of debt raised by State owned enterprises backed by State Government guarantees in view of high level of total outstanding debt of most State Governments including Tamil Nadu. Bringing such borrowing within the discipline of Article 293 (3) of the Constitution is a prudent step towards fiscal consolidation for which the Govt. of India requires the support of all the States.

Decline in Resource Utilisation

*275 SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a write up captioned "Resource Utilisation falls, stunts Ninth Plan growth" appearing